Drinking water sample results

12/22/2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) have integrated their operations in both Austin and Corpus Christi to ensure the situation is handled as swiftly as possible. The top priority is a transparent response and the safety of Corpus Christi residents, and both organizations will continue to provide any and all support to remedy this situation as quickly as possible.

The TCEQ and EPA received analytical results from twenty drinking water samples collected in Corpus Christi from December 19, 2016. Samples were analyzed by EPA laboratory using a new liquid chromatography/mass spectrograph (LCMS) and gas chromatography/mass spectrograph (GCMS) analytical method to detect Indulin AA-86 in drinking water.

None of the twenty-three drinking water samples collected from across the City of Corpus Christi water supply system tested positive for the presence of Indulin AA-86 in drinking water at method detection levels of 0.05 mg/l for LCMS and 0.26-0.27 mg/l for GCMS. The EPA and TCEQ toxicologists established a health-based action level of 2.6 mg/l for Indulin AA-86 in drinking water.

The TCEQ and EPA will remain in a status of situational awareness and collect samples from the Corpus Christi drinking water systems and confirmation testing at EPA's laboratory in Houston over the next few days. Both TCEQ and EPA have deployed additional resources to monitor Corpus Christi's drinking water system. The entire team of highly qualified and dedicated professionals from the City and State has complete work to flush the system and quickly address the situation.

Zone 1 drinking water restrictions were lifted on Thursday, December 15. Zone 2 and 3 drinking water restrictions were lifted on Sunday, December 18.

Twenty-one reports of possibly related symptoms from prohibited water use by people living in Corpus Christi have been unconfirmed. The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends that citizens with health questions should contact their local healthcare professional.

Citizens concerned about their drinking water quality should contact the City of Corpus Christi at 361-826-2489 or TCEQ at 888-777-3186. Citizens with health or exposure questions should contact the Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

TCEQ/EPA will make analytical data and sampling locations available on the Corpus Christi website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/corpus-christi-emergency-response.

The sample sites used for monitoring were selected in coordination with the TCEQ and EPA. Several sample site locations were selected in each Zone because they are representative

sites for routine and frequent compliance monitoring of water quality in the distribution system in accordance with City's approved drinking water monitoring plan.

Other sample sites were selected based on engineering hydraulic flow models proven with historical testing and knowledge of hydraulic flow of water through the City's distribution system.

Analytical results are to be considered preliminary findings until a full quality control review can be completed and the final report is generated by EPA's laboratory. Analytical methods used for these tests are new and developed specifically for drinking water samples collected from Corpus Christi. The analytical methods have not been validated and the EPA Houston Laboratory is not certified to test for this chemical. Quantitation was made using pure Indulin AA-86 [fatty amine derivative] product that was collected in the field and provided to the Houston Laboratory by the State of Texas. The salt form of Indulin AA-86 was needed to match the operations at the facility and was created using hydrochloric acid with a ratio of product to salt of 1.0:1.1, per information provided by Ingevity, the manufacturer. Laboratory creation of the salt form of Indulin AA-86 results in uncertainty of the reference material and results are to be considered estimates. Standard quality control procedures were followed.